

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Government,

vs.

ROD BLAGOJEVICH,
ROBERT BLAGOJEVICH,

Defendants.

No. 08 CR 888

Chicago, Illinois

June 2, 2010

10:47 o'clock a.m.

VOLUME 1
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE THE HONORABLE JAMES B. ZAGEL
AND A JURY

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EXHIBITS

.....

1 (The following proceedings were had in the
2 jury room in the presence of the
3 prospective jurors:)

4 BY THE COURT: I am Judge Zagel. I am one of
5 the reasons you're all here today. The first thing
6 I want to tell you is, I want to thank you, every
7 one of you, for coming here today. The system can't
8 work without you, and you have not only the thanks
9 of the court but you have the thanks of all the
10 participants in the case.

11 One thing I want to tell you is, under the
12 rules of law, I can't answer anybody's individual
13 question today. At the time you are called, you
14 will be talked to individually and at that time you
15 can raise anything you want to raise with me.

16 There's one thing that is very important for
17 you, because it applies to you now and it applies to
18 you until such time that this process is over for
19 you, and that is, you may no longer read or pay any
20 attention to or listen to any reports with respect
21 to the case entitled United States versus
22 Blagojevich.

23 Now, that may, under certain circumstances,
24 be difficult to do because you could be watching
25 television and a report comes on and it's not

1 announced. What you have to basically do is change
2 the channel or turn the set off. And the same thing
3 is true over anything you see in newspapers.

4 You should also know that in the jury
5 process, you will be identified by number. The
6 reason you'll be identified by number is not because
7 of any danger to you or because of any other kind of
8 difficulty, but simply because in today's world we
9 have a custom, a practice, which didn't occur when I
10 had dark hair, and that is that people feel that
11 it's important that you understand their thoughts
12 about what it is you're going to do. It's kind of a
13 blogging phenomenon. I have noticed, for example,
14 that since this case has started, I have received
15 many letters suggesting what I should do, some of
16 them very well written letters, very intelligent
17 commentary, I have received e-mails, as well. If
18 you are identified by your names and selected for
19 the jury, eventually many of you will receive these
20 things. It is improper for you not to consider
21 them, it is improper for me not to consider them.
22 The only e-mails I examined myself were because my
23 clerks, my law clerks, who read them all, thought I
24 ought to take a look at one of them or two of them,
25 and I did. So, basically, I follow exactly the same

1 rule that is expected of all prospective jurors.

2 Identification of you by name, if you serve
3 on the jury, will therefore not be made until the
4 close of trial. And so during the course of the
5 trial, if you're selected for this jury, you'll be
6 known in this courtroom by your number and not by
7 your name. And, in fact, and I have done this
8 before, until you're on the jury, you will wind up
9 addressing each other by various numbers and
10 sometimes modified in a variety of ways throughout
11 the trial, but, basically, the public will not know
12 who you are until the case is over.

13 The one important thing about jury service
14 and the reason we tell you not to pay attention to
15 other things and other opinions is, the issues at
16 trial are not decided by a general public policy.
17 They are decided by the jurors who are selected, and
18 only the jurors who are selected. The jurors who
19 are selected to hear any case, basically, are the
20 sole deciders of that case, and the only information
21 they are to receive is the information that comes
22 through open court after I have ruled that it is
23 admissible. It is a position of great importance
24 and significant power, and we have to play by the
25 rules; the lawyers do, I do, and the jurors do, as

1 well.

2 with that, I believe you are going to be
3 filling out a questionnaire. After you have filled
4 out the questionnaire, a jury process selection will
5 begin. A certain number of jurors will be called
6 for tomorrow and then another for the next day. You
7 are a large group and we could not possibly finish
8 the selection process with all of you in a single
9 day. So we usually call in groups of 30, 34 at a
10 time and then we finally have a jury.

11 But again, I want to thank you. We
12 understand that this is an imposition upon all of
13 you, but I'm sure you understand this is an
14 important part of the duty of every citizen in the
15 United States and I thank you again.

16
17 (Adjournment taken from 10:00 o'clock a.m.
18 to 11:47 o'clock a.m. on June 3, 2010.)
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I CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A CORRECT TRANSCRIPT
FROM THE RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE ABOVE-ENTITLED
MATTER

/s/Blanca I. Lara

date

Blanca I. Lara

Date